

Last year during in-person school, it broke my heart when my daughter came home from first grade and told me about how in school they practiced for a “dangerous person” coming into the school. “I did a really good job staying quiet, Mommy,” she said. This should not be a normal part of an American childhood, and yet, more than seven years after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, here we are.

Fortunately, Oregon legislators have the opportunity to pass a common-sense gun safety bill — House Bill 2510 — that would require all gun owners to secure firearms. There is currently no requirement for gun owners in our state to secure their firearms, which presents huge safety risks to our families and community.

According to a 2018 examination by the Washington Post, 80% of school shooters younger than 18 acquired the gun or guns used from their home or the homes of relatives or friends. Secure storage laws are an effective tool in addressing the source of weapons used in school gun violence. In the U.S., nearly 350 children unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else every year — that’s about one per day. When my daughter goes to a play date at a new friend’s house, I have to ask if they have guns in the home and if they are secured. Enough is enough. Legislators, please pass HB 2510 to help keep families safe.